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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kazutoshi SUGANUMA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Appl. No. : 10/596,794 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
(National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019697)
I.A. Filed : December 22, 2004 Confirmation No. : 1497
For : DISCHARGE LAMP LIGHTING APPARATUS AND LAMP SYSTEM
USING THE LIGHTING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/019697, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report has been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have already been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,291,945 to TOYAMA et al., which issued on September 18, 2001; and patent family member Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-073991, together with an English language Abstract

of the same. Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited beginning at page 1 of the specification of the above-caption application;

(2) Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vo.. 2002, no. 12, (December 12, 2002), along with Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-216982, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0111969 to KONISHI et al., which was published on June 19, 2003. Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited beginning at page 2 of the specification of the above-caption application;

(3) European Patent Publication No. EP 1 351 276, and patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0189408 to LAPATOVICH et al., which was published on October 9, 2003;

(4) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0160576 to SUZUKI, which was published on August 28, 2003; and

(5) U.S. Patent No. 5,481,163 to NAKAMURA et al., which issued on January 2, 1996.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further submit the following documents.

(6) U.S. Patent No. 6,963,176 to ONISHI et al., which issued on November 8, 2005;

(7) U.S. Patent No. 6,066,921 to NAKAMURA et al., which issued on May 23, 2000; and

(8) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0055341 to WATANABE et al., which was published on March 16, 2006.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

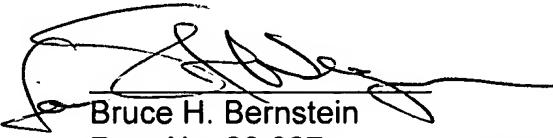
Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kazutoshi SUGANUMA et al.

October 5, 2006
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FORM PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P30160	Application No. 10/596,794		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) OCT 05 2006				Applicant Kazutoshi SUGANUMA et al.			
				Filing Date December 22, 2004	Group Unknown		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6 2 9 1 9 4 5	09/18/01	TOYAMA et al.			
2003	0 1 1 1 9 6 9	06/19/03		KONISHI et al.			
2003	0 1 8 9 4 0 8	10/09/03		LAPATOVICH et al.			
2003	0 1 6 0 5 7 6	08/28/03		SUZUKI			
	5 4 8 1 1 6 3	01/02/96		NAKAMURA et al.			
	6 9 6 3 1 7 6	11/08/00		ONISHI et al.			
	6 0 6 6 9 2 1	05/23/00		NAKAMURA et al.			
2006	0 0 5 5 3 4 1	03/16/06		WATANABE et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
9	- 0 7 3 9 9 1	03/18/97		JAPAN			
2002	- 2 1 6 9 8 2	08/02/02		JAPAN			
	1 3 5 1 2 7 6	10/08/03		E.P.O			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
1	English language Abstract of JP 9-073991.						
2	English language Abstract of JP 2002-216982.						
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							